

VZCZCXRO7231
OO RUEHSR
DE RUEHRO #0341 0821409
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O 231409Z MAR 09
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1807
INFO RUEHXP/ALL NATO POST COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY 1430
RUEHDL/AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY 0319
RUEHHE/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY 0280
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KYIV PRIORITY 0317
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY 0427
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY 0363
RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY 1429
RUEHYE/AMEMBASSY YEREVAN PRIORITY 0047
RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY 0001
RUEHPS/AMEMBASSY PRISTINA PRIORITY 0428
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 3005
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY 4769

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 000341

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/RPM CHRIS DAVY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/23/2019

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [NATO](#) [KPKO](#) [KV](#) [IT](#)

SUBJECT: ITALY AGREES ON KFOR: IN TOGETHER, OUT TOGETHER

REF: STATE 26179

Classified By: A/DCM Barbara A. Leaf for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Charge took the opportunity of a March 17 lunch with MFA Director General for Europe Laura Mirachian to conduct a wide-ranging review of Kosovo, prefiguring reftel demarche. Charge urged Italy to stay the course in Kosovo and not to make any precipitous moves to reduce or end participation in NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR). Mirachian assured Charge that Italy fully agreed on an "in together, out together" approach to Kosovo, shared our assessment that the job there remains incomplete, and said KFOR should maintain its current configuration and force strength at this time.

¶2. (C) Mirachian did note that there were some in the GOI -- particularly the uniformed military -- who have pressed for reducing the KFOR footprint, in part out of a desire to reposition those forces elsewhere. Mirachian emphasized, however, that this was not GOI policy, which she insisted is identical to that outlined reftel. Mirachian assured Charge that finishing the job in the Balkans was a top Italian security concern and that Italy would continue to argue for a robust KFOR presence until such time as a robust EULEX mission is up and running.

¶3. (C) Poloff subsequently raised the same points with MFA NATO Desk Officer Carlo Batori, who said that Italy was dismayed by the Spanish decision to break ranks and unilaterally draw down its KFOR contingent. (Spain has troops in the sector commanded by Italy.) Batori said Italy is actively urging other allies not to follow suit. He stressed that Italy is not opposed to a discussion about KFOR draw down timetables and benchmarks, but strongly opposes unilateral, uncoordinated actions like that of the Spanish. Italy agrees that EULEX and the KSF need to be more firmly rooted before allies can begin withdrawing.

DIBBLE